

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CEQ-01
EPA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 EB-08 /055 W
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R 211550Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 107
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1456

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SENV NL
SUBJECT: RHINE RIVER CLEANUP

REF: A) STATE 000160, B) THE HAGUE 707

1. FOLLOWING AN INTERPARLIAMENTARY RHINE CONFERENCE HELD IN THE HAGUE FEBRUARY 25 TO 26, PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM FIVE WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BORDERING THE RHINE RIVER ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS FOR EARLY RATIFICATION OF THE BONN AGREEMENTS AIMED AT REDUCING THE POLLUTION OF THE RIVER RHINE. THE AGREEMENTS, SIGNED LAST DECEMBER BY THE FIVE RIPARIAN STATE (WEST GERMANY, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, SWITZERLAND AND HOLLAND), ARE PRIMARILY AIMED AT A STEEP REDUCTION IN THE HUGE DISCHARGES OF WASTE FROM FRENCH POTASSIUM MINES IN THE ALSACE AND OF CHEMICAL WASTE DUMPED INTO THE RHINE BY GERMAN INDUSTRIES.

2. AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERPARLIAMENTARY WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE INTENSIVE AND LASTING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FIVE PARLIAMENTS,
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THE EUROPEAN (EC) PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PURIFY THE RIVER'S WATER. THE WORKING GROUP, CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH COUNTRY'S PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, WILL DRAW UP RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE POLLUTION PROBLEMS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE SIGNATORIES OF THE BONN AGREEMENTS AND TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN A SECOND RHINE

CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR MAY 1978. THE MEETING EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS COULD BE SIMPLIFIED CONSIDERABLY WHEN THE FIRST DIRECTLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WAS GIVEN POWERS IN THIS FIELD.

3. ADDRESSING THE CONFERENCE, DUTCH TRANSPORT MINISTER WESTERTERP POINTED OUT THAT THE BONN AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT AND THAT THE FIVE RIPARIAN COUNTRIES SHOULD PLAY A ROLE.

ACCORDING TO WESTERTERP, THE BONN SALT AGREEMENT IS STILL FAR FROM ENOUGH TO REDUCE THE SALT CONTENT OF THE RIVER RHINE TO AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL, AND ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE PAID TO BOTH THERMAL AND RADIOACTIVE POLLUTION. WESTERTERP ALSO UNDERLINED THE NECESSITY OF AN EFFICIENT POLLUTION WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE RHINE.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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